

REMARKS

In the present application, Claims 1-4, 9-12, and 16-18 are pending, and Claims 7-8 and 13-15 are withdrawn. Applicant thanks Examiner Wilson for the allowance of Claims 12 and 16-18 in this Office Action dated April 21, 2006. Although Examiner Wilson has apparently withdrawn the previous rejection of Claims 1 and 3 as anticipated by Krofchalk (5,370,576), Claims 1-4 and 10 have been newly rejected as unpatentable over Krofchalk in view of a newly applied reference to Abramson (4,031,665). Claims 9 and 10 have been objected to as depending from previously canceled Claim 5. In addition, Claim 11 has been newly rejected as unpatentable over Krofchalk in view of Abramson, and further in view of a newly applied reference to Van de Laar (6,216,402).

Applicant respectfully traverses the current rejections of Claims 1-4, 10 and 11. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, applicant hereby cancels, without prejudice, Claims 1, 2 and 10-11, as well as previously withdrawn Claims 7-8, and the currently objected to Claim 9. Applicant requests reconsideration of Claim 3, which has been amended to depend from allowed generic Claim 12, and reconsideration of Claim 4, which depends from amended Claim 3. Applicant further requests the rejoinder and allowance of Claims 13-15, which are currently withdrawn from consideration, because they depend from allowed generic Claim 12. M.P.E.P. §809. As such, applicant submits that Claims 13-15 are allowable as depending from allowed Claim 12.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{LLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims remaining in the application, Claims 3, 4 and 12-18, are allowable over the cited and applied art, and that the present application is therefore now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

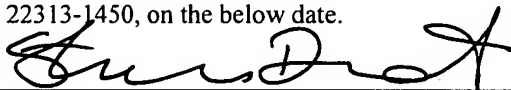


Kevan L. Morgan
Registration No. 42,015
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1712

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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100